

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-12

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, ID
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS AND STUDENTS IN INDONESIA

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GLEYSTEEEN, ACCOMPANIED BY
AMBASSADOR AND DCM, MET WITH GENERAL BENNY MURDANY, ASST.
CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE, ON MARCH 7. DURING CON-
VERSATION, GLEYSTEEEN DISCUSSED IN DETAIL BASIC POLICIES OF
THE USG WITH EMPHASIS ON THE CONTINUED IMPORTANCE ATTACHED
TO HUMAN RIGHTS NOT ONLY BY THE CONGRESS AND THE ADMINIS-
TRATION BUT BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AS WELL. GLEYSTEEEN
SAID WE WERE AWARE OF THE DIFFICULT TASK INDONESIA FACES
AT THIS TIME AND OF HIS EFFORTS AND THOSE OF OTHER SENIOR
GOI OFFICIALS TO RESOLVE PRESENT PROBLEMS WITHOUT THE TYPE
OF MILITARY ACTIONS WHICH WOULD SET BACK INTERNAL PROGRESS
AND DAMAGE INDONESIA'S IMAGE ABROAD. GLEYSTEEEN
NOTED THAT THE RELEASE OF TEN THOUSAND DETAINEES LAST
DECEMBER BY THE GOI HAD HAD A BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON
OPINION IN THE US AND OTHER NATIONS AND HAD CELARLY
SHOWN THAT THE BASIC TREND IN INDONESIA WAS TOWARD
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IMPROVEMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. HE DREW
ATTENTION TO THE CONCERN EXPRESSED IN THE U.S. AND OTHER NATIONS
AS A RESULT OF RECENT EVENTS SUCH AS THE SUSPENSION OF
NESPAPERS, STUDENT DISTURBANCES AND STUDENT-MILITARY
CONFRONTATIONS. WHILE STRESSING THAT THESE WERE IN-
TERNAL INDONESIAN PROBLEMS, DAS GLEYSTEEEN SAID HE
NEVERTHELESS WANTED TO ALERT MURDANI TO THE CONTINUING

INTEREST WITHIN THE US IN SUCH MATTERS AND THE ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS WHICH COULD ENSUE.

2. AMBASSADOR MASTERS RAISED TWO SPECIFIC POINTS WITH REGARD TO STUDENTS. FIRSTLY, HE INQUIRED REGARDING THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN THE POLICE AND TROOPS REGARDING ACTIONS TOWARD STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS. SECONDLY, HE ASKED MURDANI TO COMMENT ON THE PERSISTENT RUMORS IN JAKARTA AND ELSEWHERE THAT TWO STUDENTS HAD BEEN KILLED IN LAST WEEK'S DEMONSTRATIONS IN JOGJAKARTA. TO THE FIRST, MURDANI RESPONDED THAT THE MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES WERE UNDER FIRM INSTRUCTIONS NOT RPT NOT TO USE EXCESSIVE FORCE OR PROVOCATION IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH STUDENTS. NEVERTHELESS, HE ASKED FOR UNDERSTANDING OF THE FACT THAT TROUBLES WERE OFTEN STARTED DELIBERATELY BY THE STUDENTS AND THAT SOME ACTIONS BY THE GOI, SUCH AS TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF NEWSPAPERS AND THE DETENTIN OF SOME STUDENTS, WERE PREVENTATIVE MEASURES TAKEN FOR THE VERY PURPOSE OF AVOIDING MORE SERIOUS CALSHES AND BLOODSHED. HE STATED THAT HE HIMSELF HAS BEEN GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF ORDER IN THESE CASES AND TO ENSURE THAT IN THE PROCESS OF PRESERVING THE PEACE, THE MILITARY FORCES DO NOT OVERRACT. RESPECTING THE SECOND QUESTION, GENERAL MURDANI STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT NO RPT NO STUDENTS HAD BEEN KILLED IN JOGJAKARTA BUT THAT ONE HAD BEEN WOUNDED IN
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THE THIGH, PRESUMABLY BY A RICOCHET. HE DECLARED THAT THE FIRING HAD BEEN STARTED WHEN A SOLDIER HAD BEEN HIT IN THE GROIN BY A BOTTLE BUT REITERATED THAT THERE WERE NO DEATHS.

3. COMMENT: WHILE MURDANI MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOI WILL EXERCISE RESTRAINT VIS-A-VIS STUDENTS AND IS AWARE OF THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE, HE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOI WILL NOT TOLERATE SERIOUS DISTURBANCES AND IS THEREFORE PREPARED TO TAKE STERN MEASURES IF IT FEELS THEM NECESSARY AS A PREVENTATIVE MEASURE. AMBASSADOR ALSO COVERED THIS GROUND DURING HIS MARCH 6-7 VISIT TO SURABAYA WITH MAJOR GENERAL WITARMIN, COMMANDER OF MILITARY REGION VIII (EAST JAVA). WITARMIN CONFIRMED THAT HIS ORDERS ARE TO PRESERVE LAW AND ORDER BUT TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO AVOID VIOLENCE.
MASTERS

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